

Library



B O R O U G H O F B U R Y S T. E D M U N D S

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

1965

(1)

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR
ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF BURY ST. EDMUNDS

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Registrar General's estimate of the population records a substantial increase of 940. The new figure of 23,210 is the highest yet recorded for Bury St. Edmunds.

The vital statistics show a fall in the birth rate and a rise in the death rate but the latter, when corrected for the age and sex distribution of the population, compared favourably with the rate for England and Wales.

An extensive outbreak of measles caused a large increase in the number of cases of infectious diseases notified. In the substance of this report mention is made of the action taken when a carrier of typhoid fever was found to be working in a catering establishment in the town.

In the year 1964, it was reported that the number of animals killed for human consumption had more than doubled, but in the year under review, the number was almost doubled again. The total of 64,628 animals killed placed a very heavy work load of meat inspection upon your Public Health Inspectors.

In November a one day sessional meeting of the Royal Society of Health was held at Bury St. Edmunds. A paper entitled "Welfare Housing Accommodation for the Elderly in West Suffolk" was presented by Dr. D. A. McCracken, the County Medical Officer of Health, and Mr. E. H. Box, your Chief Public Health Inspector presented a paper entitled "The Inspection of Poultry and Rabbits". The meeting was well attended, the Athenaeum being filled with delegates from many parts of the country.

It is a pleasure to report a further improvement in the rate of clearance of sub-standard houses, 96 of which were demolished during the year.

Another outstanding feature of 1965 was the declaration of the first housing Improvement Area in Bury St. Edmunds.

I should like to record my thanks to all the members of my staff, and particularly to Mr. E. H. Box for his loyal support at all times and for his help in the compilation of this report.

The encouragement I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee is gratefully acknowledged.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. COGGIN BROWN,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

P. Coggin Brown, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

E. H. Box, M.A.P.H.I.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J. Ellis, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

G. W. Harrison, M.A.P.H.I.

S. T. Aaron, M.A.P.H.I.

J. H. Easdown, M.A.P.H.I.
(Appointed 14th June, 1965.)

ASSISTANT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Miss A. D. Wright.

STUDENT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

D. M. W. Allen
(Appointed 1st September, 1965)

SHORTHAND/TYPIST

Miss A. P. Harvey.

CLERK

Miss C. Claydon
(Resigned 2nd May, 1965.)

Miss B. Ballard
(Appointed 9th August, 1965.)

(3)
VITAL STATISTICS.

ALL FIGURES IN BRACKETS, which follow in the sequence of this report, relate to the corresponding figures for 1964.

Registrar General's Estimate for 1965	23,210	(22,270)
Census April, 1961	21,144	
Rateable Value	£1,019,584	(£963,172)
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (Est.)	£4,400	(£4,050)
Area... ..	3,672 acres.	

POPULATION:- The Registrar General's estimate of the population shows an increase of 940.

BIRTHS:- There was fall in the birth rate following the very sharp increase recorded in the previous year. The figure for the corrected birth rate of 17.5 per 1,000 of the population was below that for England and Wales as a whole.

LIVE BIRTHS	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	392 (406)	199 (201)	193 (205)
Illegitimate	22 (28)	13 (15)	9 (13)
Percentage of illegitimate live births of total live births			5.3 (6.5)
Crude Birth Rate, per 1,000 of population	...		17.8 (19.5)
Comparability Factor for Births			0.98 (0.98)
Birth Rate per 1,000 corrected for comparability			17.5 (19.1)
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population England and Wales			18.1 (18.4)

STILLBIRTHS	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	5 (6)	5 (4)	- (2)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	11.9 (13.6)
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Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births England and Wales	15.7 (16.3)
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DEATHS:- In spite of the application of a more favourable comparability factor there was a rise in the corrected death rate, but this followed three consecutive years when reductions in the death rate were recorded. However, the figure of 9.5 per 1,000 of the population was well below that for England and Wales. More deaths occurred from respiratory disease, from vascular lesions of the nervous system and from cancer. Twelve deaths compared with ten in the previous year, were caused by cancer of the lung. Five deaths were caused by accidents, one by suicide and one by homicide.

DEATHS:-	Total	Male	Female
	302 (232)	144 (109)	158 (123)
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population			13.0 (10.4)
Comparability Factor for Deaths			0.73 (0.84)
Death Rate per 1,000 of population corrected for comparability			9.5 (8.8)
Death Rate per 1,000 of population England and Wales			11.5 (11.3)

INFANT MORTALITY:- The number of deaths of infants under one year of age increased from 8 in the previous year to 12 in the year under review, and in consequence, there was a sharp increase in the infant mortality rate. It should be remembered, however, that this rate must be expected to vary widely from year to year because the figure is based upon a relatively small number of births. Six of the infant deaths were due to congenital malformations and three to prematurity. Of the twelve infant deaths, eight occurred in the first week of life.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate		12 (8)	3 (3)	9 (5)
Illegitimate		- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			29.0 (18.4)	
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births England and Wales			19.0 (19.9)	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles. There was a widespread outbreak of measles, 452 cases being notified. The majority of the cases occurred in the first quarter of the year, and more than half of the patients were children of pre-school age.

Scarlet Fever. Four cases were reported. In recent years this disease has been mild in character.

Food Poisoning. Three cases were notified, the causative organism in each case being *Salmonella typhi-murium*. Two of the cases, which were unconnected, occurred in other districts but were admitted to hospital in Bury St. Edmunds where the diagnosis was made. In the third case, the infection was believed to have been transmitted indirectly from contact with calves which were known to be infected with *Salmonella typhi-murium*.

Poliomyelitis. One case of paralytic poliomyelitis was notified. The patient was a young man who had received three injections of Salk type poliomyelitis vaccine six years ago. The disease was so mild as to pass almost unnoticed and months elapsed before his residual muscular weakness in one leg was attributed to poliomyelitis.

(5)

Typhoid Fever. A known carrier of typhoid fever was found to be working at a catering establishment in the town, and bacteriological examination confirmed that he was still a carrier. With his full co-operation, it was possible to find him alternative employment, unconnected with the food trade, and without any loss of salary. The assistance of his new employers was very greatly appreciated.

TUBERCULOSIS:- Six (5) new cases, including one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, were notified during the year. There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

Age and Sex distribution of new cases, 1965.

Age	0	1	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65+	Total
Male	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	4
Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

On one occasion during the year it was necessary to take action under this section of the Act to secure the admission to hospital of an elderly resident of the town, who was living alone and was found to be in urgent need of proper care and attention.

(6)

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1965

IN BURY ST. EDMUNDS

					Registrar General's Figures.			
ALL CAUSES					M.	F.		
					144	158	(109)	(123)
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	1	-	(-)	(-)
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	-	-	(-)	(-)
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	-	-	(-)	(-)
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-	(-)	(-)
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-	(-)	(-)
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	-	-	(-)	(-)
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	-	(-)	(-)
8	Measles	...	...	...	-	-	(-)	(-)
9	Other infective and parastic diseases	...	...	...	-	-	(-)	(-)
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	2	1	(2)	(2)
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	9	3	(6)	(4)
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	-	4	(-)	(5)
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	-	1	(-)	(2)
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	11	17	(10)	(10)
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	1	(-)	(-)
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	2	(-)	(2)
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	30	35	(25)	(22)
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	27	26	(28)	(26)
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	1	1	(1)	(6)
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	10	12	(7)	(7)
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	1	9	(1)	(8)
22	Influenza	...	...	...	1	1	(-)	(-)
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	26	12	(6)	(8)
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	9	1	(5)	(1)
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	-	-	(-)	(-)
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	4	-	(2)	(1)
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	-	2	(-)	(-)
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	-	-	(3)	(-)
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	-	-	(-)	(-)
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	-	(-)	(-)
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	1	5	(-)	(-)
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	4	23	(7)	(16)
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	2	-	(3)	(1)
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	2	1	(1)	(1)
35	Suicide	...	...	...	1	-	(1)	(1)
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	-	1	(1)	(-)

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(Other than Tuberculosis)

DISEASE	Under 1 year.	1--	2--	3--	4--	5--9	10-14	15-24	25 and over	Age Un- known	Totals
Measles	7	52	67	55	68	176	9	3	3	12	452
Whooping Cough					1	2					3
Scarlet Fever					1	2				1	4
Food Poisoning					1				2		3
Acute Pneumonia									1		1
Poliomyelitis Paralytic									1		1

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(Other than Tuberculosis)

DISEASE	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Measles	65	211	76	20	5	42	18	8	2	4	1		452
Whooping Cough	1	2											3
Scarlet Fever				1	2	1							4
Food Poisoning		1				1						1	3
Acute Pneumonia	1												1
Poliomyelitis Paralytic										1			1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER:- 60 water samples were taken from business and private dwellings during the year, 29 of these being taken from one contaminated well before the chlorination plant was installed. Subsequent samples from these premises proved satisfactory. Bacteriological samples of the Town's water supply continued to be very satisfactory.

There are now 6 public and private swimming pools within the Borough. 5 samples were taken from the Council's and other pools during the year, all of which proved satisfactory.

The following is the report of the Borough Surveyor:-

Swimming Pool.

Attendances at the swimming pool were considerably lower than for several years past, and it can be assumed that this was attributable to the rather unattractive weather conditions. During the time that the pool was open to the public, 12,257 children paid for admission during 1965 (21,611 in 1964; 15,605 in 1963; 12,263 in 1962) and 1,224 adults (2,912 in 1964; 2,445 in 1963; 1,752 in 1962). As usual the pool was hired by schools and other organisations and many school children, in addition to those given in the above figures, attended the pool for tuition.

Slipper Baths.

It is interesting to note that during the past few years the number of times the slipper baths have been used has steadily decreased. The figures are 1965 - 1,233; 1964 - 1,718; 1963 - 2,081. The decreasing use of the slipper baths is almost certainly directly caused by all new houses being provided with bathrooms, and many old houses being converted to have bathrooms, often by way of an improvement grant.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

No particular changes were made during the year, both trade and domestic refuse being collected regularly each week. All refuse was taken to West Stow for disposal by controlled tipping. Due to the expanding population, the amount of refuse to be collected is always increasing and it is expected that it will be necessary to obtain an additional refuse freighter during 1966.

Sewage Disposal.

All sewage from the Borough has continued to be treated at Pigeon Lane and Fornham Park, and the quality of the effluent, which goes to the River Lark, has continued to be satisfactory.

New Sewers.

The provision of a sewerage scheme to serve the southern area of the Borough, where foul drainage in the past has been to cesspools, was commenced during the year, and it is expected that it will be completed by the autumn of 1966. During 1965, sewers were laid to serve the Sicklesmere Road and Nowton Road area, and during 1966 sewers to serve Hardwick Lane, Vinery Road and Horsecroft Road will be constructed. When the scheme is complete, virtually all properties in the Borough will have a foul sewer available, and only an insignificant number of properties on the outskirts of the town will still be dependent on cesspool drainage.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

In the annual report for 1964, it was stated that the Council had authorised legal proceedings to be taken against the owner of a restaurant in the Borough. These proceedings were taken early this year and resulted in fines totalling £102 plus costs, for infringements of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. Since then, the premises have changed hands and it is pleasing to report that there has been a very marked improvement in their condition.

Due to the increase in the work of the Department and staff shortages, there was a sharp decrease in the number of food premises inspected during the year, and as usually happens at such times, there was a marked increase in the number of complaints received regarding these premises. All these complaints were investigated and the necessary advice was given to prevent any recurrence.

Food is essential for life but unless it is clean it can be a danger. Housewives would do well to remember that contamination can occur not only in the shop but also in the home. It is not satisfactory to use as a larder an unventilated cupboard which is often next to the fireplace. The cupboard under the stairs is not good enough either for here, uncovered food is liable to be contaminated with dust each time anyone uses the stairs. Only too often, housewives have to do all their food preparation and cooking in a small badly lit kitchen, lacking proper food storage facilities where it is extremely difficult to prepare food in a hygienic manner. It was a disappointment that the new Building Regulations of 1965 did not lay down minimum standards of space, height and lighting for kitchens which are usually the workplace of the house and where the housewife spends so many hours. Even in the conversion of large houses into flats, often the smallest rooms are made into the kitchens so that whilst the large living rooms and bedrooms give the appearance of luxury, the housewife is condemned to do all her kitchen work in a cramped space, often little more than 70 square feet.

A number of lectures were given by your Public Health Inspectors to senior pupils who were in their last year at school and it is pleasing to report that this practice is now becoming an established part of the year's work.

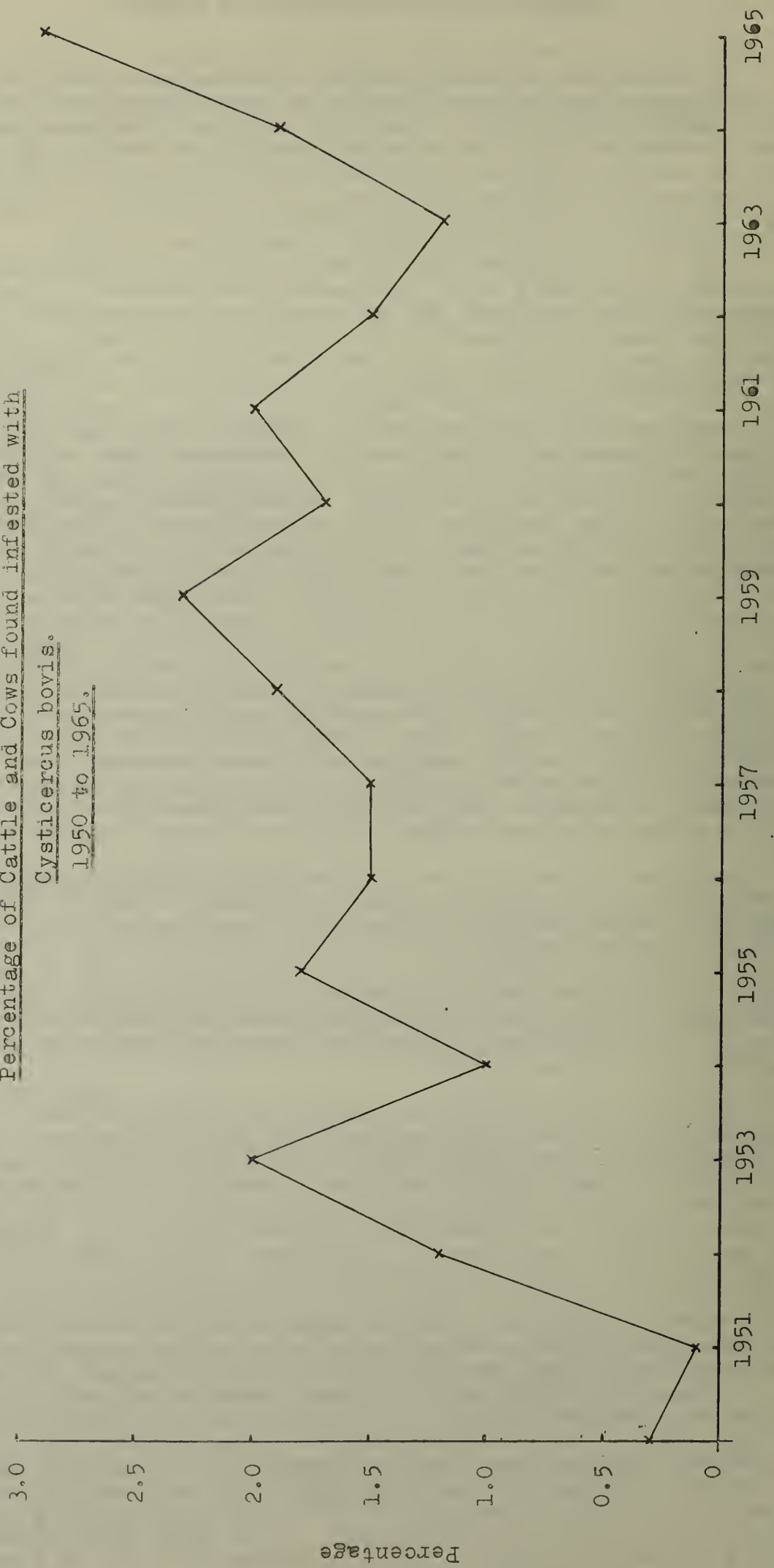
MILK:- 4 samples of raw milk were sent for biological examination. One of these taken from a bulk supply was found to be infected with *Brucella abortus* and the Authorities concerned were notified. The remainder were satisfactory.

All milk sold within the Borough is designated under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1963. 115 samples of pasteurised milk from Bury St. Edmunds were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge by the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, of the West Suffolk County Council and, in order to avoid duplication of work, copies of the laboratory reports relating to these samples were sent to this Department. All passed the Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

LIQUID EGG:- 2 samples of liquid egg, which had been pasteurised, were taken and found to be satisfactory. As it has now been ascertained that the present supplies of this egg are all sampled at the place of production, in future, samples will not be taken unless supplies are found to be coming from a new source.

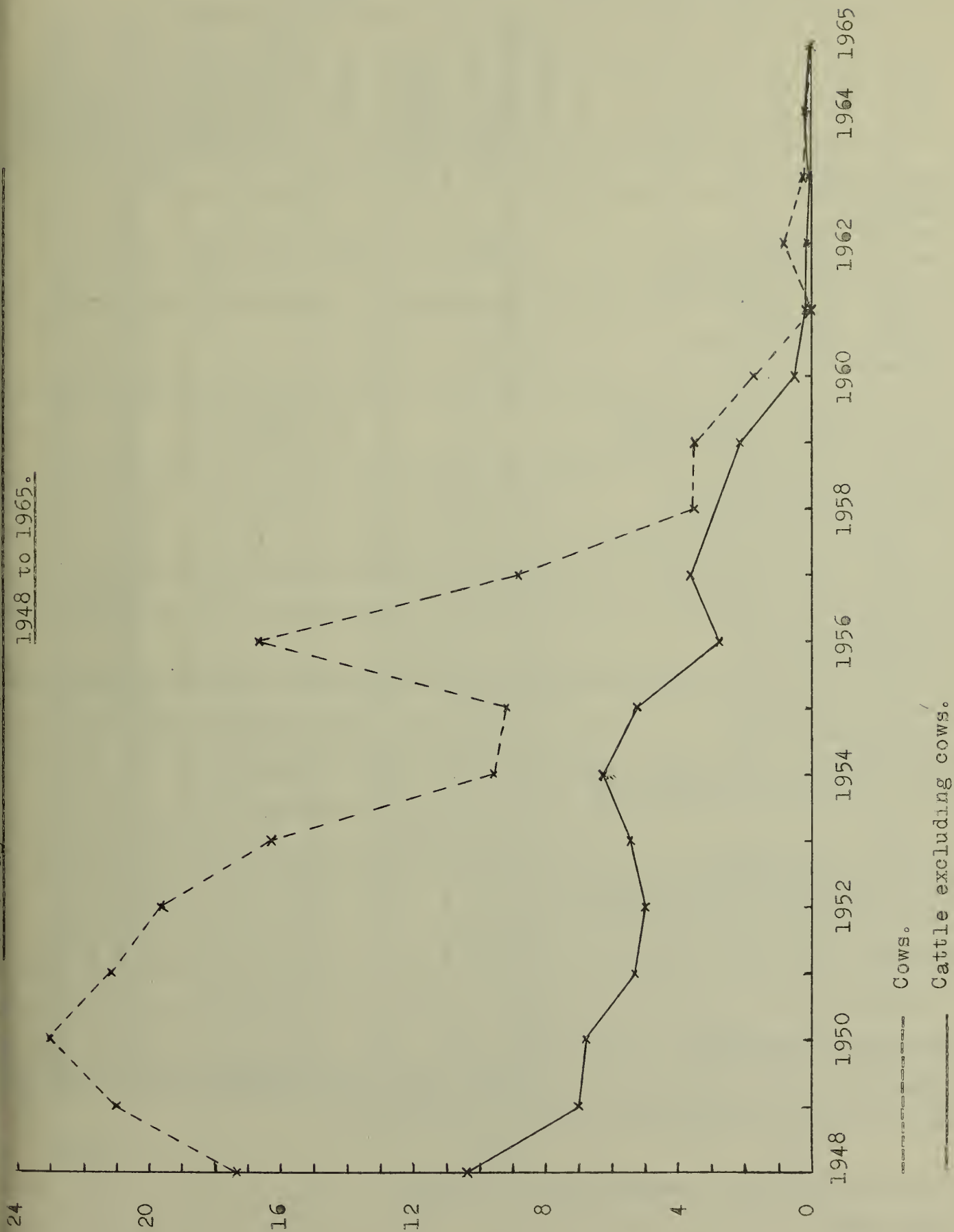
ICE CREAM:- 62 premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice cream under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. In addition to 22 (17) inspections of these premises, 86 (87) ice cream and ice lolly samples were taken during the year. 73 of these were classified in grade I, 6 were in grade II and 1 in grade III. All six samples of ice lollies were satisfactory.

Percentage of Cattle and Cows found infested with
Cysticercus bovis.
1950 to 1965.



Percentage of the cattle and cows affected with tuberculosis

1948 to 1965.



ANALYSIS OF CONDEMNED

Cattle

	Whole Carcases	Heads & Tongues	Lungs	Livers & Pt. Livers	Skirts, Udders & Mesenteries	Hearts & Kidneys.	Whole Carcases	Heads
Tuberculosis	1	2	1					
Pneumonia Pericarditis Pleurisy, Peritonitis, Melanosis and Emphysema	5		180	8	14	17	3	
Pyæmia, Pyrexia Gangrene, Septicaemia, Lymphadenitis	8						3	
Liver Fluke, Cirrhosis and other Parasitic conditions			48	2460	2			
Nephritis, Necrosis, Fibrosis, Degeneration, Odour, Contamination, C. Angioma, Blood Splashing.	1	2		139	6	53	2	
Emaciation and Oedema	9						13	
Actinomycosis and Actinobacillosis		32						
Tumours, Abscesses Cystic conditions, Adhesions.	1	21	71	978	166	64	2	
Septic Metritis and Mastitis					10			
C. Bovis	1	263			40	105		
Icterus and Uraemia	1						4	
Swine Erysipelas, Swine Fever								
Moribund, Bruising, etc.	2	3	1		3	7	8	
Contamination		11	73	1	34	7		
Joint Ill, Leukaemia.								
TOTALS	29	334	374	3586	275	253	35	-

The following Carcase Meat was also condemned:-

BEEF

Bruising, Atrophy, Decomposition or Oedema	...	...	...	...	...	860 lb.
Abscesses	...	...	...	...	...	79 lb.
Arthritis	...	...	...	...	...	15 lb.

The total weight of all meat condemned in

MEAT AND OFFAL.

Sheep			Pigs						Calves						
Livers	Hearts & Kidneys	Whole Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Livers	Hearts	Mesen-teries	Kidneys	Whole Carcases	Heads	Hearts	Livers	Lungs	Kidneys	Mesen-teries
		1	423	1	2		63								
	14	38		4812	25	777	76	35	15		7	4	90	1	
		30							15						
311	1			248	1962							1			
25	11	5		3	61	4		18	4			1		10	
		15					3		2						
46	32	30	111	322	255	279	70	59	1	1		3		6	
		3													
		3													
	290	3			1			4	1					1	
2	2			3	13	3	4								
		1							5						
384	350	129	534	5389	2319	1063	216	116	43	1	7	9	90	18	

MUTTON.

293 lb.

29 lb.

49 lb.

PORK.

1,747 lb.

1,743 lb.

1,659 lb.

VEAL.

94 lb.

90 lb.

4 lb.

slaughterhouses was 52 tons 15 cwts. 0 qrs. 6 lbs.

		Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	...	13043	451	233	11630	39271	-
Number inspected	...	13043	451	233	11630	39271	-
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI							
Whole carcases condemned	...	17	10	43	35	128	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	3940	208	105	977	9358	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerici ...	...	30.3	48.3	63.5	8.7	24.2	-
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY							
Whole carcase condemned	...	1	-	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	3	-	-	-	471	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	.03	-	-	-	1.2	-
CYSTICERCI							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	*375	8	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	...	374	8	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	...	1	-	-	-	-	-

SLAUGHTERHOUSES:- On the 31st March, 1965, Messrs. Barwell's slaughterhouse in Eastgate Street was closed leaving only two slaughterhouses within the Borough. However, the British Beef Co. slaughterhouse completed it's first full year of slaughtering and the number of animals slaughtered was far in excess of that anticipated. In 1964, the total number of animals killed was 37,922 and in the year under review, the figure was 64,628.

In addition to these two slaughterhouses, a licence has been issued to a poultry packing station for the slaughter of rabbits only. These premises were enlarged in size during the year and the kill was also on the increase.

MEAT INSPECTION:- The percentage of tuberculosis found in cattle and cows was again extremely small. On the other hand, there was a significant increase in the number of cattle found to be infested with *Cysticercus bovis* - from 1.9% to 2.9%. One carcase had to be condemned for a generalised infestation and all the remainder were treated by refrigeration in order to make them fit for human consumption. There was a very high percentage of cows found to have a diseased organ, but many of these animals were casualties. The same applies to calves where over 75% of the animals received at the slaughterhouses were casualties, however, in both of these instances, the numbers involved were quite small.

Total number of animals
killed for human consumption.

1944	10,514
1949	6,592
1954	12,301
1959	16,280
1964	37,922
1965	64,628

POULTRY:- Regular daily visits to all the poultry slaughterhouses were continued. 12,090 chickens, 9,032 hens, 38 turkeys and 35 other poultry having a total weight of 31 tons. 5 cwts. 3 qrs. 16 lbs. were condemned. It is significant that more chickens were condemned than hens and this is probably due to the increase in the number of these birds found affected with bacterial infections towards the end of the year. It is anticipated that these infections will increase in the coming year.

179 rabbits were condemned - mainly due to abscesses and a few with tumours - having a total weight of just over 6 cwts.

FOOD PREMISES:- The number of food premises in the area classified by type of business, the number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the number of inspections of these premises, which were made during the year, are recorded in the accompanying table.

	Number Registered under Sect. 16, F. & D. Act.	*Total Number of Premises	Number of Inspections made.
Butchers and Pork Butchers	20	23	42 (91)
Bakers	1	7	14 (33)
Confectioners	1	28	16 (27)
Fish - Wet	1	4	15 (16)
Fish - Fried	9	10	24 (26)
Greengrocers	-	13	23 (41)
General Provisions	2	54	68 (134)
Hotels	-	8	10 (21)
Licensed Premises (excluding hotels)...	-	76	52 (136)
Restaurants, Cafes and Canteens	-	66	83 (259)
Food Stalls	-	41	90 (142)
Other Food Premises	3	42	47 (89)

* These figures should be regarded as approximate because in many cases different businesses are conducted from the same premises

UNSOUND FOOD:- Foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption and diverted to other purposes or destroyed were:-

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Walnuts		10		
Cheese			3	
Fish		1	2	21
Vegetables 659 tins ...		8		27
Poultry	31	5	3	16
Fruit and cereals ...		4	1	1
Ham - tinned		1	3	17
Tinned Meat - 642 tins		7	3	-
Tinned Milk, Fish Fruit, etc. - 2536 tins ...	1	10	3	24
Rabbits (179)		6	2	22
Miscellaneous		2	3	19
	35	1	0	7
Meat and Offals (At slaughterhouses)	52	15	0	6
	87	16	0	13

The number of certificates of condemnation issued was 3,630 (3,435). The methods of disposal of unsound food were unchanged.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1950.

The Borough was included in a Swine Fever Order on one occasion during the year. The number of movement licences issued was 4,568 (4,062).

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The number of inspections made by the staff of this department and of treatments by the Council's operator were as follows:-

PRIVATE DWELLINGS.

Inspections	1,392
Treatments	340

BUSINESS AND OTHER PREMISES.

Inspections	609
Treatments	89

In addition to the above, two maintenance treatments were carried out to the sewerage system. Periodic inspections and treatments were made at the sewage works and refuse tips.

During the summer months, 138 wasp nests were destroyed.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

At the 31st December, 457 premises were registered with this Authority. 192 (137) of these were inspected during the year and 507 visits were made under the Act. Eight accidents were reported, all of which were investigated but in no case was any further action necessary.

The number of persons employed in premises registered with this Authority was 3,431.

123 contraventions of various types were dealt with informally during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Inspections were carried out of premises under the above Act and, as will be seen from the following table, some defects were noted. The majority of these had been remedied by the end of the year and attention was being given to the outstanding matters.

Regular inspection of such premises is most important for, if this is neglected, at some premises the standards tend to become lower.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupie prose- cuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	12	9	1	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	180	89	10	
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority, (Excluding out-workers' premises)	80	22	1	
Total ...	272	120	12	

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of ca in which pro cutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspec- tor.	By H.M. Inspec- tor.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	3			
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	11	11		3	
(c) Not separate for sexes ...					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)...					
Total ..	14	14		3	

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served.	Prosecutions
earing parel, king, etc.	7					
TAL	7					

HOUSING

The Ministry of Health no longer require details of housing matters to be included in the Annual Report of Medical Officers of Health, but in view of the amount of time devoted by your Officers to this subject, some brief notes are recorded below:-

Building Progress. New housing accommodation provided during 1965 was as follows:-

LOCAL AUTHORITY

Completed in 1965

226 (293)

Under construction on
31st December, 1965.

118 (282)

It should be noted that 170 of the houses completed and 3 of those under construction were for town development purposes.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Completed in 1965

122 (107)

Under construction on
31st December, 1965.

90 (99)

The completion of some 400 houses for town development purposes in the last two years together with the Council's normal building programme has considerably increased the proportion of new Council owned houses compared with the number of new privately owned houses, and it would appear that this trend is likely to continue during the years of town expansion. Perhaps it might be worthwhile giving further consideration to the Council building some new houses for sale with the assistance of 100% mortgages if a time should come when interest rates are less unfavourable.

OVERCROWDING:- One case of statutory overcrowding was abated but a further two houses were known to be overcrowded at the end of the year.

SLUM CLEARANCE:- The number of houses demolished during the year was 96 (91). It is very pleasing to report that the progress reported last year has been maintained in this connection. 80 families, involving 174 persons, were displaced during the year.

One Clearance Order was confirmed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government involving 22 houses in Tayfen Road and a start was made on re-housing the tenants. 5 other areas were declared during the year relating to properties in Chalk Road, Kings Road and Nowton Road. These are awaiting confirmation.

The first Improvement Area was declared involving 100 houses but in view of the rather cumbersome and complicated steps which have to be taken prior to the service of the necessary notices, no further action had been taken by the 31st December to enforce the provisions of this new Act. It is felt that the procedure needs to be simplified before many local authorities will commit themselves to declaring Improvement Areas.

38 of the Council's pre-war houses were modernised in 1965.

HOUSING REPAIRS:- The encouragement of repairs and improvements to houses which can be modernised has been continued throughout the year - 149 (222) unfit or defective houses were repaired as a result of formal or informal action by your Officers. House to house inspections were carried out in Queens Road and part of West Road, and these houses were included in the Council's first Improvement Area. At the end of the year, further inspections of a similar nature were being made in respect of other houses. In addition, 14 (13) Standard and 31 (17) Discretionary Improvement Grants were paid during the year.

The following list shows details of the works which have been completed:-

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	45	(82)
Guttering and rainwater downpipes repaired or renewed						47	(75)
External walls repaired or repointed	...	...				95	(68)
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...		41	(61)
Chimneys, flues and fireplaces repaired	...	...				32	(73)
Floors repaired and renewed	...	...	...	...		33	(70)
Windows repaired or enlarged, etc.	...	...	...	...		81	(109)
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	95	(113)
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...		87	(138)
Stairs and staircases repaired	...	...	...	...		13	(14)
Food stores provided	...	...	...	...		33	(49)
Internal water supplies provided	...	...	...	...		3	(3)
Sinks provided or renewed	...	...	...	...		10	(11)
Water closets repaired	...	...	...	...		17	(23)
Additional water closets provided	...	...	...	...		-	(4)
Drainage - repairs and improvements	...	...	...	...		55	(50)
External decoration	...	...	...	...		18	(18)
Yard pavements repaired	...	...	...	...		5	(12)
Dry rot remedied	...	...	...	...		7	(18)
Woodworm infestations treated	...	...	...	...		6	(1)
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...		11	(40)
						734	(1,032)

DUSTBINS:- At the end of the year, 1,230 (1,211) bins had been provided under the Council's dustbin scheme. The scheme has now been operated for 12 years and there can be little doubt that it provides a very useful service.

COMPLAINTS:- During the year 1,020 (1,068) complaints were dealt with by the department.

INSPECTIONS

1.	Houses - defects and nuisances	...	...	394	(453)
2.	Houses - Survey and Housing Acts	...	...	1347	(1256)
3.	Housing Act - (Improvement Grants)	...	...	497	(982)
4.	Houses - re-visits	...	...	635	(1104)
5.	Rent Act	...	...	7	(4)
6.	Verminous or insanitary houses	...	...	8	(9)
7.	Visits in connection with verminous persons			6	(5)
8.	Drainage Work	...	...	586	(856)
9.	Public Health Act - Section 75 Dustbins	...		27	(37)
10.	Marine Store Dealers	...	...	3	(10)
11.	Clean Air Act	...	...	33	(43)
12.	Infectious Disease enquiries	...	...	36	(35)
13.	Shops Act	...	...	68	(91)
14.	Interviews with owners, etc.	...	...	485	(795)
15.	Noise Abatement Act	...	...	39	(42)
16.	Slaughterhouses	...	...	1534	(1337)
17.	Poultry Inspection	...	...	1042	(1093)
18.	Stables and piggeries	...	...	23	(26)
19.	Diseases of Animals Act	...	...	67	(60)
20.	Agriculture, (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.	...	...	-	(1)
21.	Pets Act	...	...	5	(9)
22.	Schools	...	...	9	(7)
23.	Petrol installations	...	...	91	(112)
24.	Explosives Stores	...	...	68	(46)
25.	Caravans	...	...	168	(258)
26.	Outworkers	...	...	1	(23)
27.	Ponds, Pools and ditches	...	...	48	(92)
28.	Rag, Flock and Other Fillings Act, 1951.	...		-	(1)
29.	Refuse tip	...	...	5	(4)
30.	Unsound Food	...	...	207	(297)
31.	Hairdressers and Barbers	...	...	16	(38)
32.	Game Act	...	...	1	(9)
33.	Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.			507	(477)
34.	Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963	...		4	(2)
35.	Animal Riding Establishments Act, 1964	...		7	(-)
36.	Miscellaneous	...	...	278	(293)
Total				8252	(9907)

